



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission June 01, 2021

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, June 1, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
William "Bill" Blair
Celia Sadhu
Timothy Rogers
Chantele Carr
Alfred Trevino

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Michelle Loposky
Phillip Kraft

Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Terrisa Mays, Administrative Assistant II

Guests Present:

Jose Rodriguez, Red Cross
Kierra Sharman, Arizona State University Student

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of May 04, 2021 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE May 4, 2021 minutes by Commission Member Chantelle Carr

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member William "Bill" Blair

AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Vice Chair Abe McCann, Commission Members Bill Blair, Alfred Trevino, Chantele Carr, and Timothy Rogers

ABSENT: Commission Members Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky

Agenda Item 5 – Chair’s Remarks

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their efforts and contributions.

Agenda Item 6 – Red Cross Presentation – Jose Rodriguez, Regional Director, Services to the Armed Forces and International Services, AZ/NM, Red Cross

Mr. Rodriguez shares a presentation detailing the Service to the Armed Forces program. The Red Cross has provided “comfort and support” to members of the U.S. military for 130 years. These services are a part of a continuum of care that include information and referral services, resiliency workshops to help families cope with deployment, emergency services that include verified message delivery and access to financial assistance and resources, reconnection workshops that provide support with mental health and communication, and military hospital and clinic programs. The American Red Cross has volunteer opportunities, VA programs, and job training opportunities available to veterans. Resiliency programming features a variety of workshops facilitated by licensed mental health professionals available to veterans and families. Additionally, the local chapter endeavors to establish MOUs with bases to develop contact with active duty personnel.

Agenda Item 7- Commission Member Composition and Open Positions

Two designated seats currently open: Arizona Coalition for Military Families and Department of Veteran Affairs. The Commission is trying to reestablish contact. To change designation or to expand seats, the charter would need to be changed and approved by City Council. Chair encourages commission members to connect with ACMF and Dep. of VA to fill positions and to consider diversity of active and reserved potential members. Commission is able to change time and day of meetings to accommodate potential new commissioners with buy-in from Council. Timothy to reach out to the VA and VJOs to recruit potential commissioners.

Agenda Item 8 – 2021 Boards and Commissions Annual Report Review

Commission reviews 2021 Veterans Commission Annual Report.

Agenda Item 9 – Tempe Accelerates Presentation - Octavia Harris, City of Tempe

Octavia informs the Commission that there is a presentation slated for June 3rd at 2pm regarding the performance measure 3.21: the Veteran Supportive Employer initiative. The initiative has a target of 30 designated employers by 2023, there are currently 18. The designation requires the employer to undergo training once completed the company receives designation and a decal. Octavia Harris, Terrisa Mays and Michelle Lopsky to present. Commission members are welcome to attend and ask questions.

Agenda Item 10 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

No commission updates. Guest Kierra Sharman to reach out to Octavia Harris for an interview for ASU State Press.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items – July 6, 2021

- Mayor Woods as future guest speaker
- Data analysis when Aaron Peterson position filled

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Next meeting will be on July 6, 2021

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays

Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission